

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the amendment and discussion that follows.

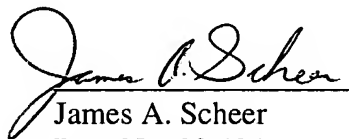
Claim 25-46 are pending in this application. Claims 25-27, 29-31, 33-35 and 37-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,463,149 to Jolissaint, et al. (hereinafter "Jolissaint"). Claims 28 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jolissaint in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 5,185,782). Claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jolissaint in view of Frick (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,676). The specification has been amended to add the dates of filing and corrections for several of the listed ancestor applications in paragraph 0001. After a careful review of the claims and references, it is believed that the claims are in allowable form and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-27, 29-31, 33-35 and 37-46 have been rejected as being anticipated by Jolissaint. However, Jolissaint has a filing date of September 15, 1995 while the instant application is a continuation which is entitled to an effective filing date April 21, 1995. (see amended paragraph 0001 of the specification). Thus, the Examiner is apparently relying on the filing date of the abandoned parent application of the Jolissaint patent, April 10, 1995. However, Jolissaint is a continuation-in-part of the parent application (S/N 08/419,103, copy enclosed) which is directed to a completely different invention than that of Jolissaint and does not disclose the subject matter of Jolissaint that the Examiner has cited against the pending claims. For example, in the Office Action the Examiner has identified Figures 3a-e as showing various elements of the pending claims, but the abandoned parent application does not even have Figures 3a-e (it does have a Fig. 3 which is unrelated to Figs. 3a-e of Jolissaint). Consequently, Jolissaint and the subject matter in Jolissaint relied upon by the Examiner is not prior art because its filing date is after the filing date of the instant application. Further, the abandoned parent

application does not disclose the claimed elements of claims 25-46 either separately or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, claims 25-46 are believed to be allowable.

As discussed above, claim 25-46 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by any combination of the cited references. Therefore, allowance of claims 24-46 is believed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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